

REMARKS

Claims 30-34 and 40-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran ("Ramachandran"). Claims 21, 23-29, and 41-46 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(e) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,118,860 to Hillson et al. ("Hillson"). Claims 58, 65-66, and 68-74 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran and U. S. Patent No. 6,118,860 to Hillson as applied to claims 30 and 40 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,210,899 to Swonger et al. ("Swonger"). Claims 22 and 47 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran and U. S. Patent No. 6,118,860 to Hillson as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,076,731 to Terrell ("Terrell"). Claims 59-64 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran and U. S. Patent No. 6,118,860 to Hillson as applied to claim 58 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 6,714,665 to Hanna et al. ("Hanna"). Claim 72 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over the combination of U. S. Patent No. 6,315,195 to Ramachandran and U. S. Patent No. 6,118,860 to Hillson as applied to claim 21 above, and further in view of U. S. Patent No. 4,210,899 to Swonger et al. ("Swonger"). Claims 48-57 and 75-88 are indicated to be allowable.

In order to expedite allowance, applicants cancel claims 21-27, 29-34, 40-44, 47, and 58-74 without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants emphasize that the cancellation of claims 21-27, 29-34, 40-44, 47, and 58-74 is without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants expressly reserve the right to pursue claims directed to subject matter of the cancelled claims in a related application (e.g., a continuing application).

The Examiner will note that applicants have added new independent claims 103, 111 and 126 and new dependent claims 89-102, 104-110, 112-125, and 127-141. New claims 89-141 are believed to be allowable in that they recite combinations of elements

not shown or suggested in the cited prior art. Further, applicants' respectfully assert that the new dependent claims 89-102, 104-110, 112-125, and 127-141 are allowable for the dependency on an allowable base claim and for the additional combination of elements they recite. New claims 103-141 recite subject matter similar to subject matter previously indicated to be allowable.

Regarding claim 81, claim 81 is amended in certain respects. Amended claim 81 is a broadened version of original claim 81 reciting subject matter similar to the subject matter of original claim 81. In addition to broadening claim elements, the amendments to claim 81 address informalities of original claim 81. Claim 75 and claims 82-88 are also amended to address certain informalities. In that the amendments to claims 75 and 82-88 do not narrow any claim element, the amendments to claims 75 and 82-88 will not be regarded as "narrowing" claim elements. No amendment presented herein contains new matter.

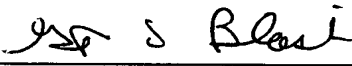
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, applicants believe all of the claims of the present application to be in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and passage to allowance of the application.

If the Examiner believes that contact with applicants' attorney would be advantageous toward the disposition of this case, the Examiner is herein requested to call applicants' representative at the phone number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-3577.

Dated: July 13, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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